

The President's Daily Brief

11 December 1969

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Libyan junta has quashed a plot and arrested two
of its own members. (Page 1)

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[redacted] West and East Germany [redacted]

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(Page 2)

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Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Kuznetsov may return
to Moscow, leaving the Sino-Soviet talks in Peking
in the hands of lesser officials. (Page 3)

[redacted] 50X1

South Korean aircraft lands in North Korea. (Page 5)

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LIBYA

Defense Minister Hawwaz and Interior Minister Ahmad have been arrested for plotting to overthrow the Revolutionary Command Council. Both men were concerned about the growing influence of Egypt in Libyan affairs, and they feared Council President Qaddafi was toying with a plan to form a union with Egypt and the Sudan. About 100 army and police officers were arrested shortly before Hawwaz and Ahmad--presumably because they were part of the same group of plotters.

The roundup of army and police officers is an effective warning to any others who may be plotting. More importantly, the arrest of such key figures as Hawwaz and Ahmad demonstrates the Council's ability to deal with threats against it.

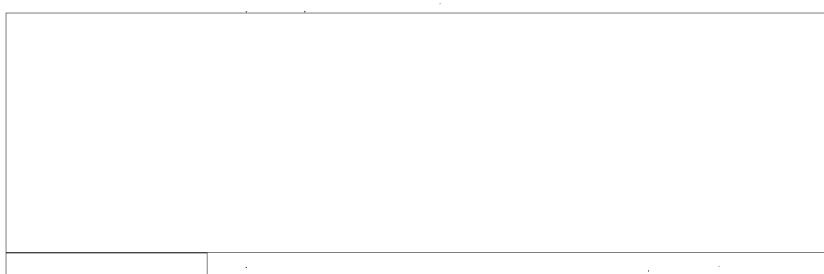
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WEST GERMANY - EAST GERMANY



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USSR - COMMUNIST CHINA

First Deputy Foreign Minister Kuznetsov may soon leave the Peking talks, according to Berezhkov, the editor of the journal of Moscow's institute for US studies. Commenting to a US Embassy official that "two months" of negotiations at the Vice-Minister level was enough, Berezhkov said that the question of reducing the talks to a lower level is now being discussed in Peking.

Berezhkov has proved well informed in the past, and his remarks add credibility to previous speculation that Kuznetsov, who had been expected to lead the Soviet SALT delegation, will soon be returning. Lowering the level of the Peking talks would probably mean that both sides feel they have clearly laid out their basic positions and recognize that continuing negotiations will be slow and tedious.

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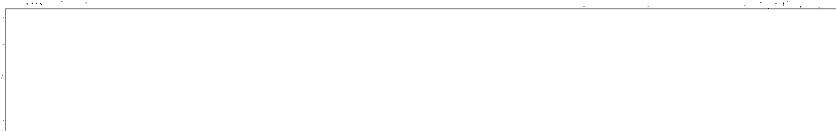


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UN-SUEZ

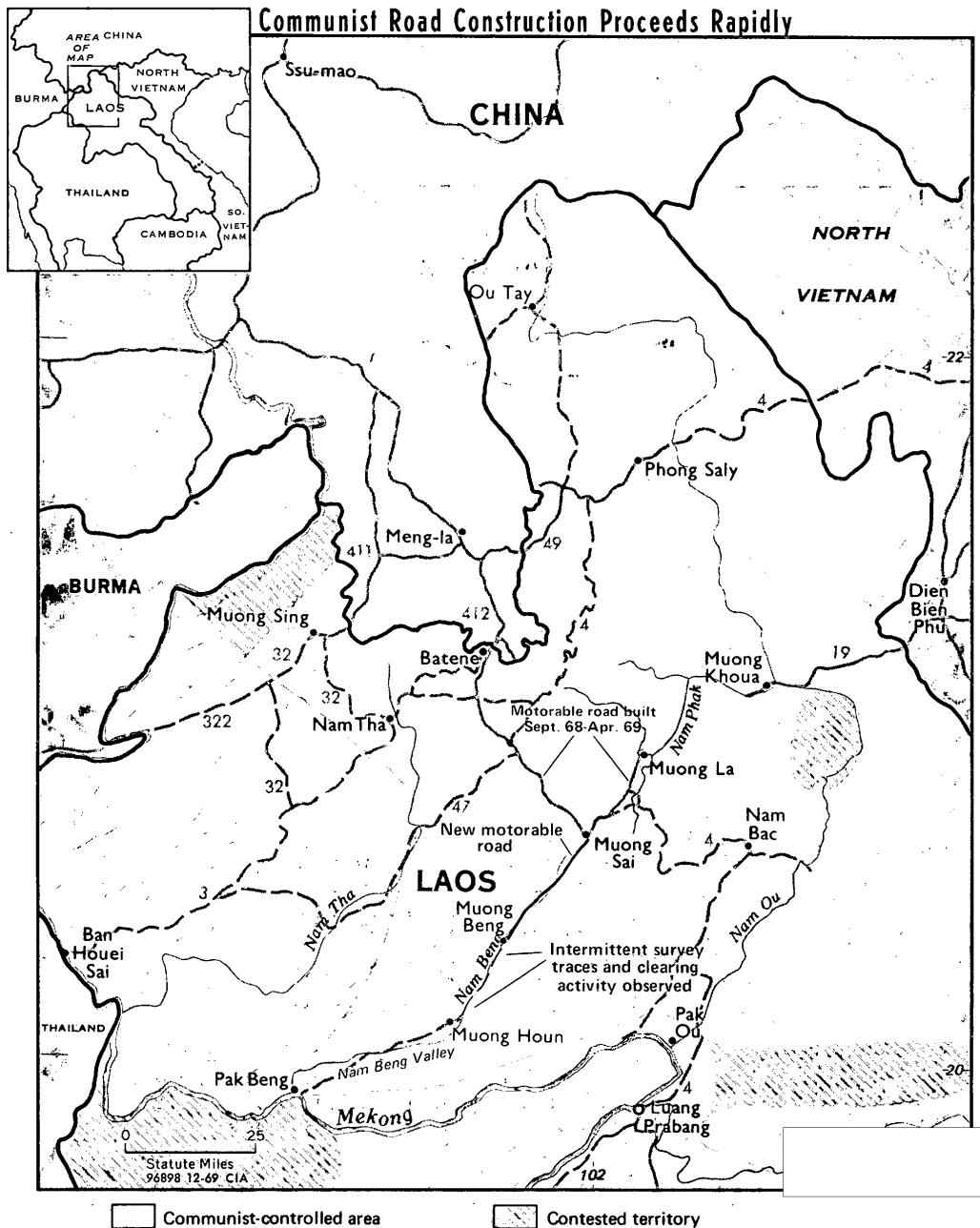


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The Egyptians recently insisted that UN observers reduce the illumination of their posts in the area at night, a move that would expose the truce teams even more to the sporadic shelling that goes on there.

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NOTES

North Korea - South Korea: A South Korean commercial airliner was forced to land at Sondok air-base, 35 miles north of Wonsan in North Korea early this morning.

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[redacted] It is still unclear whether the South Korean aircraft went astray or was hijacked. No US nationals are known to be [redacted] on board the aircraft.

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Laos: Communist road construction in the northwest is moving ahead rapidly.

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[redacted] Chinese engineers have extended the motorable limit of the new road southwest of Muong Sai some 10 miles in little over one week. Within a two-month period approximately 27 miles of new road have been constructed. Chinese engineers have claimed that the road would be completed to Muong Houn by May 1970, according to a local villager. With the road apparently now half way to Muong Houn, this would seem a conservative estimate. There is no evidence at this time of road construction activity south of Muong Houn.

Lebanon: President Hilu anticipates that the Arab summit conference will present him with some new problems. Chief among these would be a demand that his Mirage squadron be moved to Egypt or Syria-- which would be impossible under the agreement with France. He also fears that foreign Arab troops would be stationed in Lebanon, further complicating his domestic problems.

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